

April 2019

# AirScoop

104th FIGHTER WING | [WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL](http://WWW.104FW.ANG.AF.MIL)

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View all Command Media, news, full-time vacancies and more on the 104th Fighter Wing Mobile App, available on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#)

## Out & About



# AirScoop

### Wing Commander

Col. Peter T. Green III

### Vice Commander

Col. David Halasi-Kun

### Command Chief

Chief Master Sgt. Maryanne Walts

### Chief of Public Affairs

Capt. Tony Mutti

### Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Amelia Leonard

### Public Affairs Staff

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Avey

Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Sarah Watson-Kirwin

Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame

Airman Sara Kolinski



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# Commander's Column: Barnestormer Mission & Readiness

By Lt. Col. Pete Carr, 104th Maintenance Group commander



It is an honor and a privilege to command the 104th Maintenance Group during this challenging and historic time, when the Air National Guard is being called upon to achieve higher levels of readiness. We have been tasked with recruiting, training, equipping, and readying our unit to be able to deploy our 12-ship aviation package, as well as our six-ship follow package for the first time in my 26-year career at Barnes.

Traditionally, we've just focused on the 12-ship due to our Alert mission, aircraft availability, manning, and how ANG fighter units are normally tasked, but the world

threats are always changing and so follows updated national strategy and policy. The Secretary of Defense, the Commander of Air Combat Command, and our ANG and State leadership have provided new direction and guidance focusing our efforts on improving our mission and individual readiness. The president has been investing more in the Department of Defense resources than previous administrations, though this new era of budget constraints and fiscal responsibility is here to stay.

There is a lot of talk about recapitalizing our F-15C fleet with new F-15EX aircraft, as well as the F-35 Lightning II. Decisions like this are out of our control, though through strategic outreach to our State and Congressional leadership we are always trying to demonstrate the importance of keeping us in the combat fight. So now we must focus on what is within our control, and that is readiness.

**RECRUITING:** Our Recruiting office does a great job at recruiting men and women from the local area. Unfortunately, it normally takes about year or more to get these new recruits through Basic Military Training and Technical Training School. The school house is working on program improvements to their class scheduling process, and our training office is working

on better ways to forecast projected vacancies and school slot requirements. Our commanders are now being asked to look at our true vacancies where we need deployable five and seven-levels in those slots. We need to recruit to them and the slots.

The 104th Maintenance Group, for example, has 21 Air Force Specialty Codes and current direction is to only recruit to our top six vacancies for non-prior service enlistments, and more importantly, aggressively try to recruit all AFSCs from Active Duty F-15 Eagle units. We have been working with Tech. Sgt. Glenda Schuster on this initiative, and we have already had Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wallace host an ANG Info Session while he was out at Kadena Air Force Base, Japan, last month for a recent conference.

We are also ramping up our communication regarding vacancies on social media, particularly through our revitalized 104 MXG Facebook page. Please pass on job announcements to your friends and family as you see fit. Remember, we are ALL Recruiters here, and the pay, bonuses and benefits are at an all-time high!

**TRAINING:** After 3-Level school, training is largely an individual responsibility. If you're a 3-Level you should be working as hard as you can on your 5-Level Core Tasks. You should be actively trying to learn your trade and be able to work independently right on up through becoming a 7-Level. You receive your membership benefits based on your commitment to achieve this level of certification.

If you're not a 7-Level, at a minimum you should be doing all your drills and your 15 days of Annual Training to ensure you are meeting your training requirements. It is leadership's responsibility to ensure you're trained for the big picture fight. Hence our annual wing-level Operational Readiness Exercises in November. This November will be similar to the last November's ORE, but we need to continue building our combat employment skills.

August, September, and October Regularly Scheduled Drills will have focus on AFSC training in chemical gear, to include flying operations, in preparation for our November ORE. Please do your part. Supervisors and trainers, please document all the CWDE-TQT training. This is important!



# Commander's Column Continued..

*By Lt. Col. Peter Carr, 104th Maintenance Group commander*

**EQUIPPING:** Aircraft Availability is our toughest challenge. The F-15C fleet has been plagued by structural fatigue issues over the last 12 years. The jet is flying twice as long as it's designed flying hours and is showing its age. The F-15 System Program Office just reduced the Mission Capable Rate goal for each F-15C unit from 63% to 57% due to longeron issues.

Currently, the 104th Fighter Wing only has 1 of our assigned aircraft down for longerons with a 'get well date' of March 2020, and that is better than all but one F-15C unit right now.

Additionally, we had to give up 1 aircraft indefinitely to the Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Command Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base, so that AATC can continue to develop the Eagle's warfighting capability. We are also required to send four jets per year to Robins Air Force Base for up to three months for programmed depot maintenance, where our jets get inspected, repaired, modified, and modernized. We also conduct four to five phase inspections of our aircraft locally, and that can result in a jet being down for 2 to 3 months depending on what we find.

Finally, a number of our F-15Cs have the old APG-63(V)0 radar and we are sending

jets for up to two months, to Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Base New Orleans to get the Active Electronically Scanned Array (V3) radar installed.

What does all this mean? After all is said and done, we typically possess an average of 18 aircraft with jets on Alert, in Phase, a few hard broke (awaiting parts and/or taking several days to fix), leaving us with less than an ideal number of jets at any given time to fill the fly schedule. This is why half of the base manpower works in maintenance. Operations is asking for 8-ships and we're doing everything we can to make that happen. Thank you for doing your part!

**READYING:** You are probably thinking that this is an overused term by now, but I assure you, this concept is not going away. In the broadest sense of the word, it captures the essence of the military's mission and it's really why we're all here. Our primary mission is to deploy anytime and fly, fight, and win anywhere, in either an offensive or defensive air superiority role. The pilots need to be ready to operate based on the operational plans and scenarios that they train to. In maintenance, pilots are the customer, and we need to provide them with the safest, most reliable, lethal, mission-capable aircraft possible.

In order to do that, we need all of our members to be organized, trained, and equipped to get the mission done, and all wing agencies orbiting around this purpose, which I know is happening here at a high level every day. It truly takes a village to execute this mission!

At the individual level, you must do everything you can in order to be ready to deploy. This includes maintaining your physical, spiritual, and mental health. Additionally, if you have a family, you should have a family plan to document any additional support you may require should you have to deploy. Your parent, partner, friend, spouse, or family member should know what kind of assistance you may need if and when the time comes. Your Supervisor or First Sergeant can help you with that.

Finally, the base provides agencies that are available to assist you by providing support functions that can help you balance and manage some of larger aspects of your life by providing a fitness center, CrossFit & yoga classes, the chaplain's office, the Directory of Psychological Health, Family Support Group, a legal office, equal opportunity, the inspector general, Sexual Assault Resource Center Advocates, etc. Please take advantage of this support if you

need it. These are great resources and are here to help you be successful in all that you do.

I will close by saying the Air Force, Air National Guard, and our Barnestormer team need to strive to be more lethal, agile and ready so that we can get the mission done when called. We must all do our part and do the best job we can. I wish you all continued success, and I thank you and your families for serving and being part of the Massachusetts Air National Guard team.

## **Go Barnestormers!**

From Feb. 2018 to Feb 2019 our Aircraft Availability Rate increased by 16.27%, our Mission Capable Rate increased by 20.37%, and we have flown 16 more sorties than last year.



# Airmen & Airpower: Structural maintainers provide mission-ready F-15s

By Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame



[Airman 1st Class Jose Lozada Jr.](#) and Airman 1st Class Mike Scuderi, 104th Maintenance Group structural maintainers, work on an F-15 Eagle tail cone March 3, 2019, at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)



Airmen in the 104th Maintenance Group structural maintenance shop are responsible for repairing and maintaining the structure of the F-15 Eagles at the 104th Fighter Wing.

In addition to maintaining the airframe itself, the shop performs a variety of tasks including painting, sanding, and repainting the aircraft.

This is all done to provide aircraft that are in flyable condition, and to prevent aircraft damage that would be determined as a non-flyable condition.

“We’re making the aircraft available,” said Master Sgt. Leo Burbee, 104th MXG aircraft structural supervisor. “It’s as simple as that. We have to make the aircraft available to make the next sortie.”

There is a lot of coordination that goes into their work, said Burbee. The structural maintenance team works hard to make sure scheduled maintenance does not interfere with the wing’s flying mission. They also design, manufacture, and paint all of the decals on the F-15s here.

“We look at the flying schedule to see which aircraft is flying and which aircraft is not flying,” said Burbee. “Then, it’s taking a look at the aircraft that are not flying and fixing things before they become a larger issue. A lot of it is preventative.”

The structural maintainers are consistently able to meet the demands of their career field largely due to the team they have, said Burbee.

“We have a great team,” he said. “I’ve been the supervisor for two years, and in those two years we’ve had eight new people come into the shop.”

One of the new Airmen, Airman 1st Class Mike Scuderi, 104th MXG structural maintainer, recently excelled while at Patrick Air Force Base for temporary duty training, said Burbee.

Scuderi said he enjoys working in the structural maintenance shop and having a direct impact on mission readiness here.

“There are a lot of different things that we learn how to do,” said Scuderi. “It’s a little scary, but it also makes you feel pretty important at the same time.”



# Thank you, Barnestormers

By Lt. Col. Chris "Biggs" Bigelow

Barnestormers,

The words, "Thank you," do not even come close to expressing the feelings that I have. But, that's all I can say to those of you who donated money to Fisher House, came to Patti's service, and joined us at the Delany House.

Patti crossed over earlier than she or I expected. In fact, the week after her passing, I was on a vacation we had planned in Ireland. I/We thought we had more time.

Patti went to the Fisher House where she was given amazing care. She spent four days there and the whole time she was treated like she was the only resident. The staff treated all the residents the same way. So when we asked for donations in lieu of flowers, we knew it was for a wonderful purpose. Those donations floored me, my family and the staff. Well done! That money will have a direct impact on others who go there to leave this earth.

The turnout at the service was huge. Two hours into the reception line we had

to stop meeting people in order to get the service underway. To those of you who stood in line and got turned away, I am sorry I was unable to greet you. I want you to know we all appreciate you.

Lastly, the turn out of warriors from the 104th Fighter Wing floored Patti's immediate and extended family. When I looked out over the sea of blue in the crowd, those uniforms spoke loudly of the quality and the professionalism of each of you. The civilian population does not experience that in life. Damn, you guys and girls looked impressive. So once again, all I can say is, "Thank you," from the bottom of our hearts.

- Biggs





# Headlines & Highlights

104th Public Affairs Office



104th Medical Group Efficiency



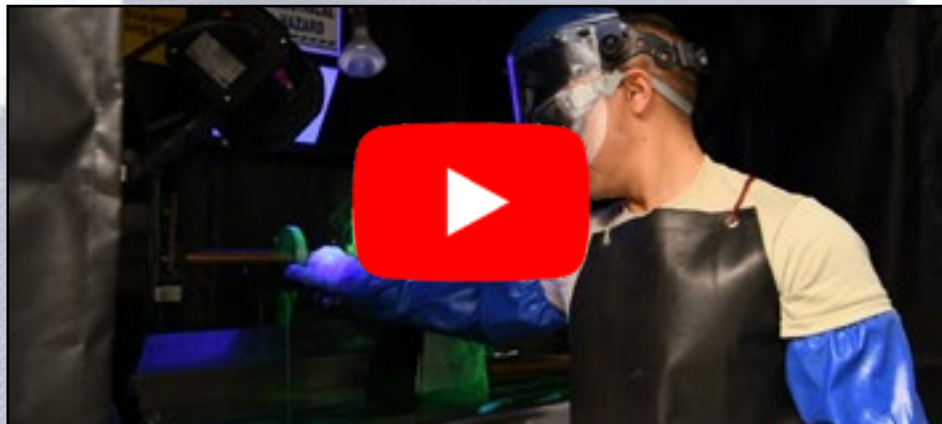
Westfield Technical Academy Tour



Family Readiness Group Dinner



Mechanic Prospers



Nondestructive Inspections



Hydraulics Specialists



Nondestructive Inspection: A Look Below the Surface



New Financial Advisor



# Westfield Events

**A Westfield 350<sup>th</sup> Celebration**  
**BIRTHDAY WEEKEND**

**EVENT SCHEDULE**  
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**FRIDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

3:30 PM- **Proclamation Ceremony**  
 Westfield City Hall

4:30 PM- **Run Westfield Fitness Expo**  
 Race Headquarters, Depot Square, 16 N. Elm Street

5:00 PM- **ArtWalk (5-7pm) & ArtWalk Afterhours (7-9pm)**  
 Gaslight District & Westfield Creative Arts, 105 Elm St.

**SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 AM- **Yoga By The River**  
 Kane/Wojtkiewicz Park by the Great River Bridge

8:30 AM- **Community Pancake Breakfast**  
 Westfield Middle School (12 & under \$3 • 13+ \$6)

9:00 AM- **Columbia Greenway Children's Bike Rodeo**  
 Westfield YMCA - Rear Parking Lot

10:00 AM- **Utility Box Mural Painting Projects (3)**  
 Around Park Square Green

11:00 AM- **Yoga for Gardeners**  
 Grandmothers Garden

11:00 AM- **Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Quest**  
 Run Westfield 5K Road Race Finish Line - Elm Street

1:00 PM- **Pollinator Gardening**  
 Grandmothers Garden

1:00 PM- **Run Westfield America's Fastest 5K**  
 from WSU and block party on Elm Street

2:00 PM- **"Time in Westfield" Musical Matinee**  
 Westfield Women's Club

5:30 PM- **Children's Carnival Games & Hotdog Roast**  
 Amelia's Garden

7:00 PM- **Beach Boys Tribute with The Driftwoods**  
 Fields behind Boys & Girls Club

9:00 PM- **Fireworks!**  
 Fields behind Boys & Girls Club

**SUNDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

11:00 AM **Community Parade - Staging**  
 Stanley Park & Westfield State University

1:00 PM **Community Parade - Start**  
 Western Avenue & Kensington Avenue

4:00 PM **Viewing Stand & End Of Parade\***  
 Westfield Athenaeum side lawn

4:15 PM **Mummers Woodland String Band Performance\***  
 Park Square Green immediately following parade with  
 Cupcakes from Westfield Technical Academy and  
 Hoodsie Cups from Hood Ice Cream - while supplies last.

\* Times approximate based on length and pace of the parade

**1669-2019**  
  
**350<sup>th</sup>**  
**CELEBRATION**  
 WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
[westfield350.org](http://westfield350.org)

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Show your civic pride by  
 decorating your house and/or  
 business with festive lights on  
 Westfield's 350<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 weekend of May 17, 18 & 19!

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC**  
**WESTFIELD WEDNESDAYS**  
 350<sup>th</sup> Historical Lecture Series  
 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.

**APRIL 17, 2019 • Wayfinding through GPS:  
 Planning Perspectives for the City of Westfield**  
 WSU: Dever Stage, Parenzo Hall  
 Presented By: Dr. Dristi Neog and Dr. Robert Bristow

**APRIL 24, 2019 • How Westfield Became Known as the "Baseball Town"**  
 First Congregational Church • Presented By: Dan Genovese

**MAY 1, 2019 • Whips of Westfield:  
 The Rise and Decline of an American Industry**  
 WSU: Scanlon Banquet Hall • Presented By: Bruce Cortis

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2019 • 1-4 PM**  
**WSU Student Research on Westfield**  
 WSU: Ely Hall • Presented By: WSU Students

**MAY 8, 2019 • Things Change:  
 The Lost Homes of Westfield**  
 First Congregational Church  
 Presented By: Dr. Robert Brown

**More information:**  
[westfield350.org/lectures](http://westfield350.org/lectures)

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# Highlights, Welcomes, Farewells and Promotions

104th Public Affairs Office

## Hydraulics Specialists Keep Things Moving



A hydraulic specialist in the Air National Guard is typically involved with repairs from start to finish. They construct many of the parts used in their back shop, replace or install the new part, and inspect it themselves. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Airman 1st Class Randy Burlingame)

[Read the full story here](#)

## Welcomes

Airman Basic Shaun Gezotis, SFS  
Staff Sgt. Elijah Lee, OSF

Airman 1st Class Caroline Nicolao, MDG

## Farewells

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Rudzik, MXG   Master Sgt. Lynn Sheffield, Comptroller

## Promotions

Airman 1st Class Weronika Baczek, MDG  
Senior Airman Catelin Pobieglo, MDG  
Senior Airman Brandom Ewing, MXS  
Senior Airman Anthony Reed, MXS  
Staff Sgt. Victoria Sieracki, MDG  
Tech. Sgt. Ross Larson, MXS  
Senior Master Sgt. Darci Furr, FSS

Senior Airman Kayla Priest, LRS  
Senior Airman Clayton Deming, AMXS  
Senior Airman Nicholas Heitmann, MXS  
Senior Airman Pavel Chumak, MXS  
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Krutka, SFS  
Master Sgt. Wayne Wilson, SFS  
1st Lt. Amanda Savoie

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